



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Care Finance and Policy
Two Boylston Street
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Governor

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JUDYANN BIGBY, M.D.
Secretary

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID MORALES
Commissioner

March 2, 2010

Michael Widmer
President
Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation
333 Washington Street, Suite 853
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Dear Mr. Widmer:

In accordance with its statutory mandate under M.G.L. c.118G §6 ½, the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy (Division) will be holding public hearings regarding health care provider and payer costs and cost trends. The Division has identified a representative sample of health care providers and payers to serve as witnesses. The Division formally invites you to participate in the public hearing as a witness, to present oral testimony under oath, and to be subject to examination by the Division and the Office of the Attorney General ("OAG") as contemplated by the statute.

The Division has selected you to testify as part of a panel addressing employer experiences with health care cost growth. You should be prepared to present five minutes of testimony and to be examined about the preliminary reports published by the Division and by the OAG. Some broad themes that your panel's discussion will seek to address include but are not limited to: the impact of rising costs on businesses in Massachusetts; employer experiences with limited networks and tiered health plans; approaches for employers and consumers to become prudent health care purchasers; and the feasibility of various policy solutions. You may also be asked to respond to information previously submitted in this hearing. Your participation at the hearing will help the Division develop policy recommendations which will be submitted in a final report to the Legislature.

Your testimony and participation in the panel discussion will be at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at Joseph P. Healey Library, University Club, 11th Floor, University of Massachusetts, Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd, Boston, MA 02125. The Division requests a copy of your five-minute testimony by Thursday, March 11, 2010. Testimony can be emailed to: costtrends@state.ma.us.

The hearing will be open to the public and will generally be presented in a thematic moderated-panels format, with each witness given the opportunity to make brief opening remarks, answer questions, and briefly respond to other comments. A detailed agenda listing all invited participants will be posted on the Division's website at www.mass.gov/dhcfp/costtrends by March 5, 2010.

Please contact the Division at your earliest opportunity if you have an insurmountable conflict. Given the gravity and urgency of identifying strategies to mitigate rising health care costs in Massachusetts, the Division requests that you make every possible accommodation in your schedule to assist us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Morales". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

David Morales
Commissioner

cc: Thomas O'Brien, Office of the Attorney General